

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawai'i

March 24, 2017

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Statewide

Request for Approval of the Final Environmental Assessment ("FEA") for the Girl Scouts of Hawaii Camp Improvements Statewide:

Camp Paumalu, Paumalu Ahupua`a, Ko`olauloa District, Island of Oahu, TMK: (1) 5-9-006:012;

Camp Kilohana, Ka`ohe Mauka Ahupua`a, Hamakua District, Island of Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-4-015:005; and

Camp Pi`iholo, Makawao Ahupua`a, Hamakua Poko District, Island of Maui, TMK: (2) 2-4-013:074

and

Request for Authorization to the Chairperson to Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI")

BACKGROUND:

During the Regular Session of 2013, the Twenty-sixth Legislature ("Legislature") authorized funds to the Girl Scouts of Hawaii ("GSH"), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, for capital improvement program ("CIP") grants-in-aid ("GIA") for camp improvements statewide including its camps: Camp Paumalu, Wailua, Oahu, TMK: (1) 5-9-006:012; Camp Kilohana, Waimea, Hawaii, TMK: (3) 4-4-015:005; and Camp Pi'iholo, Makawao, Maui, TMK: (2) 2-4-013:074. The CIP funds for the GIA was appropriated to the Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources ("State Parks" and "DLNR") pursuant to Act 134, Session Laws of Hawaii ("SLH") 2013. A total of \$1,250,000 in general obligation bond funds were released by the Governor for planning, design and construction for statewide camp improvements, specifically for infrastructure improvements including the closure of large capacity cesspools ("LCC"), installation of individual wastewater treatment systems ("IWS") and roadway improvements, as funding will allow. To utilize the funding, GSH is required to enter into a GIA agreement with State Parks, which the DLNR approved in September 2014. Also, GSH is required to do an environmental assessment to utilize the GIA funding.

One trigger for the environmental assessment is the use of State funds as described above and required by Section 343-5a, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"). The other trigger is due to the proposed wastewater treatment unit at Camp Paumalu is equivalent to fifty single family dwellings. Though the improved camp areas do not include any public facilities, State Parks is tasked to ensure that GSH complies in the use of the appropriated funds. GSH is the applicant and State Parks/DLNR is the accepting authority. Group 70 International Inc., is the consultant that prepared the FEA and will design the campground improvements.

ITEM E-1

In 2012, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) issued its notice of violation to GSH and copied the State Department of Health (“DOH”) for the following:

Camp Area	Violation	Compliance
Camp Paumalu, Oahu	6 pit toilets 2 LCCs	IWS – septic tank and absorption bed system Composting toilets
Camp Kilohana, Hawaii	2 pit toilets 1 LCC	IWS – septic tank and absorption bed system
Camp Pi`iholo	2 LCCs	IWS – septic tank and absorption bed system

Pit toilets are considered LCCs by EPA and DOH. GSH will comply with the LCC closures through replacement IWSs and composting toilets. The GIA funding will be used for the planning, design and construction of these wastewater facilities and compliance measures. In its GIA agreement with State Parks, GSH will initiate and complete the projects listed above.

Chapter 343, HRS, also requires the disclosure and assessment of the total project, in this case, the other planned improvements for its camps were described in the draft environmental assessment (“DEA”) for this project. The DEA described the following:

Camp Area/Zoning	Proposed improvements
Camp Paumalu, Oahu 135.51 acres SLUC – Agriculture CCH zoning – AG-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New lodge and replacement swimming pool. • New campsites – new cabins, pavilions, Adirondack open air pavilions to augment tent camping. • Infrastructure improvements – roadways, parking, water systems, electrical and gas service improvements, and wastewater improvements.
Camp Kilohana, Hawaii 6.88 acres SLUC – Agriculture County of Hawaii zoning – A-40a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWS servicing Baldwin Lodge
Camp Pi`iholo 14.37 acres SLUC – Agriculture County of Maui zoning - Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWS servicing the existing lodge

GSH estimates these improvements may cost approximately \$13,000,000 upon full buildout, and the significant improvements will be at Camp Paumalu. GSH intends to fund these improvements from fund raising and other sources. To clarify, the appropriated GIA funding for \$1,250,000 will be used to address the LCC violations and any additional infrastructure improvements as funding will allow; GSH will utilize other funding sources for its overall campground improvements. The DEA was published in the Environmental Notice in January 2017. A pre-consultation review was conducted prior to this date

and during the notice period the requisite 30-day public and agency review was completed in February 2017.

Chapter 11-200-12, Hawaii Administrative Rules, lists the factors agencies should consider when determining whether an action will have significant effects, and an assessment that no significant environmental impacts is expected is based on the following:

1. *Involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resources.*
The project does not involve any known destruction of existing natural or cultural resources. Camp Paumalu, Camp Kilohana, and Camp Pi`iholo are existing GSH campgrounds. Though several camp systems and facilities will be upgraded, this will not result in camp footprints or recreation and nature-based activities other than currently being conducted. No Federal or State of Hawaii listed threatened, endangered, or candidate plant or animal species will be harmed. Archaeological and cultural studies determined that the camp upgrades are not expected to result in irrevocable loss of these resources. In case, during construction, cultural and/or archaeological resources are inadvertently discovered, the State Historic Preservation Division, DLNR, will be notified and necessary protection measures will be implemented.
2. *Curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment.*
The improvements of Girl Scout camps statewide do not curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment, as the activities in the campgrounds will provide interaction with the environment as part of the educational and recreational programs. The proposed improvements are intended to improve the accommodation of camp users which enhance the programs provided by GSH. Also, the improvements will provide economic and social benefits to the community.
3. *Conflicts with the state's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions, or executive orders.*
The project does not conflict with the State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapter 344, HRS, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, court decisions or executive orders.
4. *Substantially affects the economic welfare, social welfare, and cultural practices of the community or State.*
The project will preserve the present recreational land uses in the Pupukea/Paumalu, Waimea and Makawao communities. The camp improvements will enhance GSH's abilities to prepare youth to become active and contributing members of society and strengthen GSH's ability to carry out its mission to positively influence girls to solve problems and improve their communities.
5. *Substantially affects public health.*
The proposed improvements are expected to have a positive impact on public health through the permanent closure and replacement of LCCs, and the replacement with IWSs provide long-term protection of groundwater sources. Short-term impacts during construction will include air and noise impacts that will be mitigated through best management practices.

6. *Involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities.*

The camp improvements will not result in a change in population and is not anticipated to generate or stimulate growth. The project does not create any substantial secondary impacts on the existing population or on public facilities. Secondary impacts to infrastructure are minimized through the provision of IWSs.

7. *Involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality.*

The quality of the environment will not be degraded by this project.

8. *Is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions.*

The improvement projects either respective or cumulative do not require or influence a commitment for larger actions; but result in improvements to social, recreational, and economic environments.

9. *Substantially affects a rare, threatened, or endangered species, or its habitat.*

There are no endangered plants or animal species located within the project sites. Although no Hawaiian hoary bats were detected during the course of all three Camp surveys, given the habitats present at each site, it is probable that there is at least seasonal usage of the trees by this species. Because of this, clearing woody vegetation taller than 15 ft (4.6 m) will be avoided between June 1 and September 15, the period in which bats are most at risk from vegetated clearing.

10. *Detrimentially affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels.*

No adverse impacts to air or water quality are anticipated. Short-term effects on air, water quality or ambient noise levels during construction will be mitigated through compliance with County and State requirements to mitigate these impacts. No State or Federal water quality standards will be violated during or after the construction of the Camp improvements; the upgrades in each Camp will require compliance with nonpoint source pollution prevention measures through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDS") permit, when applicable.

Construction activities may create temporary noise impacts, which will be mitigated through the use of mufflers and implementing construction curfew periods; in addition pursuant to Chapter 11-46 Hawaii Administrative Rules will require compliance with community noise controls.

11. *Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.*

Camp Paumalu and Camp Pi`iholo are not located in environmentally sensitive areas such as flood plains, tsunami zones, beach, erosion-prone areas, geologically hazardous lands, estuaries, or fresh or coastal waters. Camp Kilohana is located in an area with seismic risk, as the entire Island of Hawai`i shares this risk, and the project would employ design and construction standards appropriate to the seismic zone.

12. *Substantially affects scenic vistas and view planes identified in county or state plans or studies.*
No view planes or scenic vistas will be obstructed or affected by the proposed improvements. Tall vegetation and forest trees around Camp Paumalu and Camp Pi'iholo block views from neighboring parcels and lower elevations, and the vegetation clearing at Camp Paumalu will enhance coastal views from the camp. Camp Kilohana scenic vistas and view-planes will not be affected by the proposed IWS improvements.
13. *Requires substantial energy consumption.*
Construction of the project will not require substantial energy consumption relative to other similarly sized projects. The proposed improvements may increase electrical demand slightly at Camp Paumalu; however, this is a wilderness camp and the proposed upgrades will not significantly increase energy demand beyond current levels. Alternate electrical systems such photovoltaic panels and batteries may be used for remote campsites where overhead electricity installation cost are prohibitive.

For the reasons noted above, the proposed improvements are not expected to have significant effects in the context of Chapter 343, HRS, and section 11-200-12, HAR

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Section 26-15, HRS, “the department of land and natural resources shall be headed by an executive board to be known as the board of land and natural resources... The board may delegate to the chairperson such duties, powers, and authority, or so much thereof, as may be lawful or proper for the performance of the functions vested in the board.”

Further, Section 171-6 identifies the powers of the Board: “Except as otherwise provided by law, the board of land and natural resources shall have the powers and functions granted to the heads, of departments and the board of land and natural resources under chapter 26. In addition to the foregoing, the board may . . . delegate to the chairperson or employees of the department of land and natural resources, subject to the Board’s control and responsibility, such powers and duties as may be lawful or proper for the performance of the functions vested in the board.”

REMARKS:

Delegation of Authority to Issue FONSI

The Division of State Parks requests that the Board delegate to the Chairperson authority to review environmental assessments and to issue Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for environmental assessments prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and submitted in connection with the division’s capital improvement program appropriations. As noted previously, the use of State funds is one of the triggers in Chapter 343, HRS that requires the preparation of an environmental assessment. As the ‘approving agency,’ the Board is responsible for environmental review and compliance, and the processing of environmental documents as required by that chapter. The process includes seeking agency and public review and comment, preparing responses to comments received and issuing, filing and maintaining records of FONSI.

For this project, the DEA and a notice of an Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact was sent to OEQC and published in the January 8, 2017 issue of *The Environmental Notice*. The statutory 30-day public review and comment period ended on February 7, 2017. Comments were received and responded to during the pre-consultation period and DEA consultation period from:

Federal	State	County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services	Department of Accounting and General Services	City and County of Honolulu – Board of Water Supply, Department of Design and Construction, Department of Facility Maintenance, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Permitting, Department of Transportation Services, Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Police Department
	Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism	
	DOH – Clean Water Branch, Environmental Management Division, Environmental Planning Office, Maui District Health Office, Wastewater Branch	
	Department of Hawaiian Homelands	County of Hawai`i – Department of Environmental Management, Department of Water Supply, Hawai`i Fire Department, Hawai`i Police Department, Planning Department
	DLNR – State Parks, Engineering Division, Land Division – Hawai`i, O`ahu Districts, State Historic Preservation Division	
	Department of Transportation	County of Maui – Department of Environmental Management, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning, Department of Public Works, Department of Water Supply, Maui Police Department

Substantive comments focused on: the camps are in the State and County agricultural districts and zoning and will require respective land use approvals; conformance with objectives of the Hawaii State Planning Act and Coastal Zone Management Program; conformance with wastewater system regulations and standards; and the use of best management practices to mitigate impacts to groundwater sources.

The GIA CIP funded project will involve the closure of eight (8) LCCs and replaced by IWSs and composting toilets, in three (3) existing campgrounds owned and managed by GSH. These wastewater improvements at Camp Paumalu, Camp Pi`iholo and Camp Kilohana will enable GSH to utilize the appropriated funding to comply with EPA and DOH requirements and address its notice of LCC violations. Staff is seeking the acceptance of the Final EA for GSH’s proposed improvements and delegation of authority from the Board to the Chairperson to review EAs and to make FONSI determinations, when appropriate. Such delegation of authority will ensure State Parks’ responsibility to appropriately utilize State funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approve the Final Environmental Assessment for the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i proposed campground improvements and
2. Authorize the Chairperson to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact for this project

Respectfully submitted,



CURT A. COTTRELL, Administrator
Division of State Parks

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments

- A. Final Environmental Assessment for Improvements to Girl Scout Camps Statewide.